(c) Pun-Pun Morhar Dhardha, Punasi Reservoir, Sone Canal Modernisation, Subernarekhja Multipurpose Reservoir, Katri Reservoir and Kundghat Reservoir Projects are pending for approval in Central Water Commission.

(d) The clearance of the projects depends upon the promptness with which the State Government complies with the observations of Central agencies.

[English]

Illegal Smuggling by Diplomats

1303. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Indian diplomats role seen in art smuggling" appearing in 'The Hindustan Times', New Delhi dated February 8, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the facts of the matter have been ascertained by the Government;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the preventive measures being taken to ensure that no works of art/antiques are smuggled out of India especially by diplomats?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no evidence that any Indian diploment is involved.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Export and import of baggage of diplomats is governed by the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations which provides no immunity with regard to articles, the import or export of which is prohibited by the law. Therefore, any diplomat trying to smuggle in or out any item prohibited under law is subject to internationally accepted investigative and preventive procedures governing diplomatic corps. The implementation of the relevant law is ensured by the customs authorities of the concerned State.

Expressway in M.P.

1304. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position in regard to construction of express highway between Dewas and Indore in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the estimated cost of the 'express-way' and share of State and Union Government;

(c) whether land has been acquired; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G.VENKATRAMAN): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Acupuncture System

1305. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request to recognise acupuncture as a system of therepy;

(b) if so, the number of requests recevied by the Government for the purpose during the last three years and action taken on each of them; and

(c) the time by which the Government propose to recognise acupuncture as system of therapy by bringing a legislation on the pattern of "West Bengal Acupuncture System of Therapy Bill, 1996"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Kanyakumari-Mysore N.H

1306. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct National Highway from Kanyakumari to Mysore; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Russian made Weapons

1307. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the Russian made weapons and other hardware in the possession of our Defence Forces;

(b) if so, whether the spare parts for these weapons and hardware are available in the international market; and

(c) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to manufacture these spare parts in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Russia on guaranteed supply of Defence equipment related items/spare parts, product support and comprehensive services needed for maintenance/repairs overhaul and modernisation. Following the

break up of the erstwhile USSR., Government have also been pursuing a policy of establishing contacts with Russia as well as each of the successor States of the former USSR for promotion of Defence Cooperation.

Simultaneously, Government are also pursuing measures to sustain defence imports from other sources and to strengthen indigenous production facilities to ensure that the defence requirements of the country are fully met.

[English]

N.H. No. 31, Sikkim

1308. SHRI BHIM PRASAD DAHAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request from Sikkim Government for construction of an alternative Highway for Sikkim from Siliguri to Gangtok;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) whether there is a proposal to hand-over National Highway 31A to CPWD?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) Govt. of Sikkim have requested for an alternative route to Sikkim from Siliguri via Singla Bazar. Improvement of Siliguri-Singla Bazar road which falls in West Bengal could be included in 9th Plan under Economic and Inter State Importance Scheme depending on availability of funds.

(d) NH 31A is under the control of Border Roads Organisation and there is no proposal to hand over NH 31A to C.P.W.D.

[Translation]

Road Between Bareilly to Amingaon

1309. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scheme for the construction of 1600 Km. long parallel road from Bareilly (U.P.) to Amingaon (Assam) was formulated in 1963 and it was accorded approval in various stages;

(b) whether the construction of 205 Km long Darbhanga Forbisganj missing link which is a part of this paralled road has not been completed yet without which even the conception of this parallel road is incomplete, and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to construct this road?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G.VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. the stetch from Darbhanga to Forbisganj never formed a part of this project.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Changes in NCC Organisations

1310. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are considering radical changes in training content and structure of NCC Organisations in terms of upgradation and expansion etc.

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the details of present set up and coverage of the organisation and proposed expansion, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) Under the command and control of Director General NCC, New Delhi, there are 16 Directorates, 91 Group Headquarters and 754 Units in the country. The State-wise details of NCC Units are in the attached statement. The Government are constituting a Committee headed by the Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Defence to review the functioning of NCC.

Statement

Sl. No.	State (s)	No. of Units	Total No. of Districts	No of Districts covered by NCC
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	57	23	23
2.	Bihar	43	55	55
3.	Delhi	18	09	09
4.	Gujarat	35	19	19
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	09	14	14
6.	Karnataka	49	20	20